

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Verne Kreger on 12/3/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 21, insert - - ; and - - after the word "hand"

Claim 1, line 22, "is operated; and" was replaced by - - is operated. - -

Claim 1, lines 24-25, delete the phrase "wherein the actuator is movable from the first position to the second position by squeezing with a single hand."

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 has not been rejected using prior art because no references, or reasonable combination thereof, could be found which disclose or suggest a medical device comprising: the actuator mechanism comprises an actuator is movable from a first position wherein the actuator mechanism is decoupled from a pulling member to a second member, wherein the actuator mechanism becomes operatively coupled to the pulling member, wherein the actuator is movable from the first position to the second position by squeezing with a single hand; and wherein the actuator is movable from the second position to a third position wherein the end effector is operated, in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations as set forth in claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor X. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4699. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4.30 P.M).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AnhTuan Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Victor X Nguyen/
Examiner, Art Unit 3731

/Todd E Manahan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3734